

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone call with Robert A. Jensen (Reg. No.: 61,146) on October 08, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, line 20, replace "port number." with --port number; and wherein the subscriber joins in the multicasting group through IGMP protocol.--.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

In claim 6, line 1, replace "a Radius module" with -- an authentication server, a Radius --.

In claim 6, line 2, replace "wherein," with --wherein, the 802.1x device is implemented with an Ethernet switch or broadband access device; --.

In claim 6, line 5, replace “an authentication server” with --the authentication server--.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

### **Reason for allowance**

3. After consideration of the applicant's remark filed on August 28, 2008 in response to the Office Action mailed on May 28, 2008, and further search and through examination and examiner's amendment claims 1-3 and 6 have been found to be in condition for allowance over prior arts of record.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 includes the following features of a method which are not taught or further suggested and would not have been obvious over prior arts of record and these features are:

if the subscriber attached to a port for **802.1X authentication is based on port number** makes a request for joining in a **multicasting group through IGMP protocol**, the **subscriber's MAC address is searched for first**; if said MAC address is found, the **subscriber's account number information** is searched for according to said **MAC address and said port number**.

if the subscriber attached to a port for **802.1X authentication is based on MAC address** a request for joining in a **multicasting group through IGMP protocol**, the

**subscriber's account number information** is searched for **directly** according to the **subscriber's MAC address and the port number**.

Claim 6 includes the following features of an 802.1x protocol-based Ethernet switch or broadband access device which are not taught or further suggested and would not have been obvious over prior arts of record and these features are:

The multicast control module sends the **subscriber's account number and multicasting IP address** to the **Radius server for authentication via the Radius module**; the multicast control module maintains the multicast connection till the subscriber request exits after the subscriber is added to said multicast group

if the subscriber attached to a port for **802.1X authentication is based on port number** makes a request for joining in a **multicasting group through**, the **subscriber's MAC address is searched for first**; if said MAC address is found, the **subscriber's account number information** is searched for according to said **MAC address and said port number**.

if the subscriber attached to a port for **802.1X authentication is based on MAC address** a request for joining in a **multicasting group**, the **subscriber's account number information** is searched for **directly** according to the **subscriber's MAC address and the port number**.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

#### ***Contact Information***

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Techane J. Gergiso whose telephone number is (571) 272-3784 and fax number is (571) 273-3784. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am - 6:00pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on (571) 272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/T. J. G./

Examiner, Art Unit 2437

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/Matthew B Smithers/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2437